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### Rothman, Hein, and AALL: A Short History of a Long-Standing Publishing Relationship

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## Rothman, Hein, and AALL:

A Short History of a Long-Standing Publishing Relationship

by April Schwartz

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The AALL Publications Committee has had various incarnations through the years, but one of its main purposes has always been to encourage AALL members to publish materials of value to the profession. One road to accomplishing this goal has been the long-standing relationship forged between AALL and Fred B. Rothman & Co. (and then William S. Hein & Co.), legal publishers, to produce the AALL/Rothman Publication Series. This article will discuss how this valuable AALL/publisher relationship developed and grew.

In 1959, the first AALL title published by Fred B. Rothman & Co. contained papers collected from the Pre-Convention Institute. Thus began the AALL/Rothman Publication Series, though its scope wasn't fully defined for a long period. In the beginning years, Rothman found the authors for the Series, and the Publications Committee approved its choices. The Chair of the Publications Committee in 1959 was Frances Farmer. The Rothman/AALL publishing momentum built slowly. Over 16 years (1959-1975), 12 Series titles were published. Except for Meira Pimsleur's *Checklist of Basic American Legal Publications*, begun in 1962, the titles in the Series were all one-shot treatises.

The 1977 Rothman catalog/AALL Publication Series list included: *Institute for Law Librarians*, 1959, 1961, and 1963; Elizabeth Finley's *Manual of Procedures for Private Law Libraries*; *Union List of Basic Latin American Legal Materials*, edited by Kate Wallach; *Manual on KF, the Library of Congress Classification Schedule for Law of the United States*, by Patricia Luster Piper; and James O. Werner's *Manual for Prison Law Libraries*.

Then Larry D. Dershem's *Library of Congress Classification, Class K, Subclass KF, Law of the United States, Cumulative Index* was published in 1982, and the recurring publications began. Jill Sidford was Publications Committee Chair for that particular milestone. Still, the Committee/publisher cooperation proceeded by fits and starts. During some years, Publications Committees didn't participate in working with Rothman on the Series at all. Sometimes Rothman didn't propose that an appropriate title be published as part of the Series, but simply published it as a Rothman publication. The procedures for working together didn't always go smoothly.

In 1982-83, the Publications Committee began streamlining procedures for publishing the Series. Nancy Carol Carter chaired the Committee through these changes. This Committee worked

particularly long hours to solicit members' interest in publishing. Another burst in publishing in the Rothman/AALL Series came in the late eighties under Chairs Merle Slyhoff and Kaye Stoppel. Rules and procedures were revisited, resulting in further refinements.

In October 1998, Hein acquired Rothman. (Currently, Fred B. Rothman Publications is an imprint of William S. Hein & Company.) Thankfully, Hein left the AALL Publication Series in place. Prior to 1998, the trend was that the vast majority of titles in the Series were

proposed by Rothman, not solicited by AALL. That trend is starting to change. Rob Richards (Co-Chair and Chair from 1998 to 2000) worked hard to see that the Committee actively sought titles to recommend to Hein. Marketing efforts were increased to get the word out to

**For those law librarians looking for a publisher for their work, Rothman and Hein have been ready and willing to look at proposals and publish those materials that fit into their publishing list. On the Publications Committee Web pages on AALLNET, forms and instructions have recently been added to make it easy for AALL members to submit publication proposals. These proposals are then speedily reviewed. Feedback and/or suggestions are swiftly provided to prospective authors. Proposals recommended by the Committee are forwarded to W. S. Hein, whose staff wastes no time contacting an author with a yea or nay. The process is fast and almost completely free of bureaucracy.**

continued on page 30

former and new authors. The Web Page application forms and instructions were created. Timelines for responding to requests were regularized. Efforts to solicit publishing ideas continued.

As of this year, the AALL Publications Series consists of 48 titles. Titles cover various subjects and formats: legislative history sources; a manual for law librarianship; a manual for cataloging legal literature; copyright; law librarian interviews; an index to AALL Annual Meetings; foreign law codes and legislation; law library staff organization

and administration; a foreign law collection directory; research guides; a book on publication opportunities; a history of law librarianship; state and federal union lists; a thesaurus; guides, etc. The Hein titles can be found on AALLNET, or at Hein's Web page (<http://www.wshein.com>). The number of subjects covered has expanded dramatically over time, and will continue to grow.

The Publications Committee has always been involved, to a greater or lesser extent, in working with Rothman, and then Hein, to promote the organization's interest

in quality publications about and for legal librarianship and law librarians. The AALL Publications Committee is exploring further ways to open doors to publishing opportunities for the membership. The Hein/AALL author/publisher relationship provides a satisfying model for relations with more publishing entities in the future.

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**Chapter News** continued from page 12

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